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UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE COMMITTEE OF GENERAL LITERATURE AND EDUCATION,
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A RHINOCEROS ATTACKED BY ELEPHANTS.

A RHINOCEROS ATTACKED BY ELEPHANTS.

THE Rhinoceros* is the least intelligent of the larger quadrupeds. Fierce and intractable, it is at all times very formidable, as well to animals as to man. Being protected by nature with a skin like a coat of armour, it commits the greatest devastations with impunity. It is a native both of Asia and of Africa, though the species found in the two countries greatly differ; the Rhinoceros of Africa having two horns on the snout, while that of Asia has only one. Of the former, Mr. Bruce says, "When pursued, and in fear, the Rhinoceros possesses an astonishing degree of swiftness, considering his size, the apparent unwieldiness of his body, his great weight before, and the shortness of his legs. He is long, and has a kind of trot, which, after a few minutes, increases, in a great proportion, and takes in a great distance. It is not true that on a plain he beats the horse in swiftness. I have passed him with ease, and seen many more mounted do the same; and though it is certainly true that a horse can very seldom come up with him, this is owing to his cunning, not to his swiftness. He passes constantly from wood to wood, and forces himself into the thickest parts of them. The dry trees are broken down as with a cannon-shot, and fall about him in all directions. Others that are more pliable, greener, and fuller of sap, are bent back by his weight and the velocity of his motion; and, after he has passed, restoring themselves like a green branch to their natural position, they sweep the incautious pursuer and his horse from the ground, and dash them in pieces against the surrounding trees."

Of the two species of this animal, one is called the *bicornis*, or two-horned, and the other the *unicornis*, or one-horned: the latter has been supposed to be the unicorn of Scripture. The former is, I believe, peculiar to Africa: it is never known in India, where the one-horned Rhinoceros alone is found. Its size is only inferior to that of the elephant, although it is considerably smaller. Its bulk, however, is greater in proportion to its height; and, from its superior courage and activity, it is a much more formidable creature. Its head resembles that of a pig; and it has two small, dull eyes, which give it an appearance at once stupid and intractable. Its length, not including the tail, is from eleven to twelve feet, and the circumference of its body about the same; though it is said sometimes to exceed this standard. It occasionally, though rarely, attains to the height of seven feet, and is amazingly strong; while its skin is so hard and thick, as to be generally impervious to a musket-ball. The hide is curiously divided into sections, and the different divisions are adapted with such exquisite precision, as to have the appearance, at a short distance, of a beautiful coat of mail. It is extremely rough, and offers so complete a resistance to the touch, as not to yield in the slightest degree to the strongest pressure. The only vulnerable parts are the belly, the eyes, and near the ears.

This animal is of very sequestered habits: it traverses the most impenetrable jungles alone, and is the terror of every creature with which it comes in contact, although it seldom attacks unless provoked by aggression. The horn upon its nose, which is thick and pointed, curves upwards towards the forehead, forming an acute angle with the bone of the snout, and projecting from it about thirty inches. It is a most fearful weapon; so much so, that even the colossal elephant has been frequently laid prostrate by a well-directed stroke from the armed head of this terrible adversary. The horn does not adhere to the

bone, but when the Rhinoceros is in its ordinary state, stands loose between the nostrils; the moment, however, the animal is excited to resistance by the approach or attack of a foe, the muscular tension is so great that the horn instantly becomes immovably fixed, and he is able to dart it into the trunk of a tree to the depth of several inches.

The upper lip of the Rhinoceros is of great length, and remarkably pliant, acting like a sort of proboscis, by which he grasps the roots of trees, and other esculent substances, and it is capable of contraction or expansion, as circumstances may require. "With this lip," says Bruce, "and the assistance of his tongue, he pulls down the upper branches which have most leaves, and these he devours first. Having stripped the tree of its branches, he does not directly abandon it; but, placing his snout as low in the trunk as he finds his horn will enter, he rips up the body of the tree, and reduces it to thin pieces, like so many laths; and when he has thus prepared it, he embraces as much as he can of it in his monstrous jaws, and twists it round with as much ease as an ox would do a root of celery."

The female generally produces only a single young one at a birth, which attains to a full state of maturity in about fifteen years. The Rhinoceros is so stupid, and of so savage a disposition, that it seems to exist merely to gratify a voracious appetite. It is the terror of its native woods, and if it had been a gregarious animal, would have been a terrible scourge to the countries in which it is found. When excited, it displays paroxysms of fury which render it highly dangerous for any one to approach. As it is of a temper much less mild than the elephant, it is far more formidable when exasperated, on account of its greater activity and more desperate ferocity.

The voraciousness of this creature is extraordinary; it will consume as much as an elephant, and is always very fierce if intruded upon whilst feeding. A young Rhinoceros, only two years old, sent from Bengal in 1739, cost a thousand pounds sterling for food, including the expenses of its passage.

When the Rhinoceros and Elephant meet, which is not very often the case, the conflict is terrific. The former will stand his ground, even though surrounded by a herd of elephants, by which indeed he is generally destroyed, though not without making a desperate resistance. He will frequently inflict a mortal wound upon one or two before he is subdued. The Elephant, therefore, always approaches him with extreme reluctance: if the Rhinoceros succeeds in making good his stroke at his huge adversary, it generally proves fatal; his horn, ploughing through the side, exposes the intestines, and the gigantic creature falls dead. If, however, the Elephant is successful in preventing the rush of his enemy, he receives him upon his tusks, which inflict too severe a wound to enable the Rhinoceros to renew the encounter. The timidity of the Elephant generally causes it to have the worst in conflicts with this mailed foe, so that the latter is seldom molested, and consequently roams at large as the monarch of the jungle; even the tiger and the lion shun him, as an enemy not to be provoked without peril.

The following account of the Rhinoceros is extremely curious, being by the celebrated Baher, Emperor of the Moguls, and is to be found in his autobiography, translated by Dr. Leyden and Mr. Erskine.

"The Rhinoceros," writes this remarkable man, "is a huge animal; its bulk is equal to that of three buffaloes. The opinion prevalent in our countries, that a Rhinoceros can lift an Elephant on its horn, is probably a mistake. It has a single horn over its

* See Saturday Magazine, Vol. I., p. 224.

nose, upwards of a span in length, but I never saw one of two spans. Out of one of the largest of these horns I had a drinking-vessel* made, and a dice-box, and about three or four fingers' bulk of it might be left. Its hide is very thick: if it be shot at with a powerful bow, drawn up to the arm-pit with much force, and if the arrow pierces at all, it enters only three or four fingers' breadth. They say, however, that there are parts of his skin that may be pierced, and the arrows enter deep. On the sides of its two shoulder-blades and of its two thighs, are folds which hang loose, and appear at a distance like cloth housings dangling over it. It bears more resemblance to the horse than to any other animal†. As the horse has a large stomach, so has this;—as the pastern of the horse is composed of a single bone, so also is that of the Rhinoceros;—as there is a gumeck‡ in the horse's fore-leg, so is there in that of the Rhinoceros. It is more ferocious than the elephant, and cannot be rendered so tame or obedient. There are numbers of them in the jungles of Pershâwer and Hashnaghar, as well as between the rivers Sind and Behreh, in the jungles. In Hindostan too they abound, on the banks of the river Sirwuj. In the course of my expedition into Hindostan, in the jungles of Pershâwer and Hashnaghar||, I frequently killed the Rhinoceros. It strikes powerfully with its horn, with which, in the course of these hunts, many men and horses were goꝛed.

J. H. C.

* The Rhinoceros' horn was supposed to sweat on the approach of poison, a quality which fitted it, in a peculiar manner, for being made into a drinking-cup for an eastern king.

† It has more the appearance of a huge over-grown hog.

‡ A marginal note on the Tûrki copy, translates gumeck, marrow.

§ The Goggra.

|| The Rhinoceros is now almost entirely expelled from the countries about the Indus.

PAPYRUS MANUSCRIPT OF THE PSALMS.

A PORTION of the Book of Psalms, written on papyrus, probably the earliest fragment of Sacred Writ known to exist, has recently been brought into this country, from Egypt, by Dr. Hogg, who gives the following account of it.

"Among the various objects of antiquity which were purchased from the Arabs, at Thebes, were two papyri, the one in Coptic, the other in Greek; both in the form of books. The subject of the Coptic papyrus, now in the possession of Sir William Gell, at Naples, has not yet been ascertained; but since my return to England, the Greek papyrus has been discovered to contain a portion of the Psalms. The leaves, of about ten inches in length, by seven in width, are arranged, and have been sown together like those of an ordinary book. They are formed of strips of the papyrus plant, crossing each other at right angles. The writing, continued on both sides, is perfectly legible, the letters partaking both of the uncial and cursive forms, sometimes standing quite apart, unconnected by cursive strokes, with accents, occasionally, but not regularly, inserted.

"The beginning of the manuscript is imperfect, and it concludes with the second verse of the thirty-fourth Psalm. The text, as far as it has been collated, has been found to be a good one, and to possess some interesting variations not found in other ancient versions. These papyri were both discovered among the rubbish of an ancient convent at Thebes, remarkable as still presenting some fragments of an inscription, purporting to be a pastoral letter from Athanasius, Patriarch of Alexandria, who died A.D. 371, which has been conjectured to be the age of the manuscript."

[Dr. Hogg's Visit to Alexandria, Damascus, and Jerusalem.]

NATURE, USES, AND MANUFACTURE OF CHARCOAL. I.

THE various processes by means of which natural productions become available to the arts of life, deserve inquiry on the part of all persons who desire an insight into the general adaptation of matter to man. The changes undergone by almost all substances, as they pass through the hands of industry to their destined uses, as, for instance, the progressive transition of the ore of lead, from the dark recesses of the mine, through the fire of the furnace, to the brilliant pigment ready to the painter's brush; such changes, so variously and craftily wrought, are found to be not unworthy of notice, even when the subject is one of such familiar and universal occurrence as white paint. Trusting, therefore, to that interest which usually attends the detail of operations carried on remotely from the sphere in which we daily move, it is our intention to collect a few particulars respecting the manufacture of a more equable substance than the above, namely, that which is at the head of our present article.

But our readers will not perhaps object to accompany us to the rural scene, with which we would associate our recollections of the Charcoal-burner and his fiery craft. Indeed, if it be possible for language to describe faithfully such a spot as that to which we allude, the charm imparted to our detail by the contemplation of its beauties, will not fail to draw on the attention of any reader whose mind is capable of appreciating the graces of a woodland scene.

Newington Moor opened unexpectedly upon our view, during a ramble over the picturesque country about the coast of South Kent. We had already explored more than one of those valleys, or perhaps salt-water inlets, which agreeably diversify the walks in the neighbourhood of Hythe and Saltwood; but we had met with nothing which could compare with the peculiar features of the moor. Leaving the road from Newington to Beachborough village, by a narrow footway, which presents itself opposite the sandy banks to the left, we were at once struck with the lively characters of a marshy tract, overshadowed by alders and lofty ashes, which appeared to extend far into the bosom of some low hills, partly occupied by hop-gardens, and partly by variably productive crops of mangel-wurzel, lucerne, and wheat. Immediately before us was a flour-mill, turned by the water of a stream which takes its rise a mile to the north, at the base of the chalk-downs, and enters the moor beneath a brick arch, broadly stretched above where the road intersects its course. At this moment, the scene, circumscribed by a few yards, was our principal inducement to deviate from the road; the stroke of a water-mill, indeed, seldom fails to arrest one's step for a moment: the simple ingenuity of the machine, the lively sound, and agreeable sense of falling waters, especially in summer-time, conspiring to recommend it to the respect of a moment's regard. Upon advancing farther into the valley, a rude plank-bridge offered us safe conduct towards the mill and the rustic cottage at its side; but we preferred entering the vale, for its wildness had already attracted our attention through the trees which overshadowed the path. The vegetation of this moor (which, by means of obstruction offered to the streamlet in its bosom, has become, in the greater part, a poachy morass,) is unusually luxuriant. The gladwyn (*Iris pseudacorus*) bar-reed, (*Sparganium rai-nasum*), the rush and sedge-tribes, rise around in giant proportions; but there was one species of sedge (*Carex paniculata*), which we had not observed elsewhere, but which on this spot presented a novel and very interest-